

# Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

## WISE COUNTY/TOWN OF BIG STONE GAP WATER SHORTAGE

### SITUATION REPORT # 18

1400 Hours October 25, 2005

*New Information in Bold Italics*

*Next Conference Call is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26, 2005, 0930 hours  
Information for Situation Report should be submitted to the VEOC no later than 1000 hours daily*

### WEATHER

**Forecast:**

**Southwest VA:** 25 Oct - Mostly cloudy, chance of rain in lower elevations and a chance of flurries above 2500 feet. Rain showers likely in the afternoon, little or no snow accumulation. High temperatures in the lower 40s. West winds 10 to 20 MPH. 60% chance of precipitation. Tonight - Mostly cloudy, chance of rain showers in the evening, then a slight chance of rain showers and snow showers after midnight. Low temperatures in the lower to mid 30s. Northwest winds 10 to 20 MPH. 50% chance of precipitation. 26 Oct - Mostly cloudy, high temperatures in the upper 40s to lower 50s, Northwest winds 5 to 10 MPH.

### EXECUTIVE ACTION

**EOC Activation:**

The Virginia VEOC is at Increased Readiness condition and augmented with limited staffing.

**State of Emergency:**

On October 7, 2005, Governor Mark R. Warner declared a state of emergency to exist for Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to assist these localities in responding to a critical water shortage. Governor Warner directed appropriate assistance be rendered by agencies of the state government to respond to needs in Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to alleviate adverse conditions created by the water shortage. Executive Order 99 (2005) was amended to include an Open Burning Ban on Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap.

**Local Situation:**

Local Emergency Declared: Wise County declared a local emergency on September 26, 2005.

### STATE AGENCIES

#### Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

The new Region Four Coordinator will meet with local personal during the later part of this week. The VEOC is coordinating requests for assistance from the locality and state agencies, and is facilitating conference calls with the locality and state agencies.

#### Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

Dr. Sue Cantrell, will be the State point of contact through the end of this week. Gastrointestinal illnesses are being closely monitored for any outbreaks. Currently no abnormalities have been detected.

VDACS is using the same standards and guidelines as VDH - ODW (Office of Drinking Water) for food operations during water outages/shortage.

Water distribution to special needs on medically restricted extremely low sodium diets to continue.

***Distribution of hand sanitizer/baby wipes discontinued with lifting of boil notice. Assure school administration/parents that no indication that chickenpox cases are related to water issues in BSG.***

***VDH will monitor food establishment's compliance with plans, and will monitor results of on going water tests.***

#### **Virginia National Guard (VNG)**

The VNG continues distribution and blivet support mission. Eleven blivets are placed at the following locations: one at each of the three public schools, one at the Hospital, one at the Nursing Home, one serving the community college/DMME, one at the Special Needs Shelter, two supporting the Portable Water Processing Plants, and two supporting the Powell River Cave #1 pumping operation. No longer conducting bottled water distribution. Weather protection equipment for employees and or personnel is being considered. **Sixteen** soldiers remain on mission.

#### **Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)**

Monitoring Powell River water flow.

#### **Virginia Department of Corrections (VDOC)**

The VDOC is refilling blivets daily.

#### **Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)**

VDOT has four message boards in the Big Stone Gap area.

A VDOT tractor is being used to pull stainless steel tankers of water.

#### **Department of General Services/Consolidated Labs**

***DGS/CL is supporting with continued water sample testing.***

#### **Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)**

The VDOF has signs in place notifying residents of the burn ban.

#### **Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy (DMME)**

Powell River Cave #1 receives 90-95% of its water from the Powell River and once the reservoir is empty the cave will dry up.

#### **LOCAL ACTIVITIES**

Local, county and state personnel met during the weekend. Town of Big Stone Gap is trying to locate a pump for the main line to recover and return unused water to treatment plant for conservation purposes. One to three million gallons of water is currently at the reservoir. Without any additional rainfall the reservoir will likely shutdown as a source of water.

Awaiting test results on the connection between Big Stone Gap and the Town of Appalachia. This resource will be brought into use at such time as the reservoir's supply is completely depleted. In addition, testing of Appalachia back up wells, which are being reconnected to that water system, is underway. Five additional potential sources of water have been identified.

The Cracker Neck area, which is east of Big Stone Gap, is of concern. A pump is on order to deliver water into the system and will arrive on Friday, October 28, 2005. Interim measures are being contemplated.

Permanent connection is complete from the Norton/ Big Stone Gap water line. The system is providing 100,000 gallon per day and ***efforts to increase the flow is underway. The boil water notice was lifted on 10/24/05 @ 4:03 pm; sodium advisory will continue.***

***Powell River Cave #1 continues pumping water during 7:00am – 3:00am allowing the down time to recharge of the Cave supplies.***

***Both portable plants 1 & 2 are on line producing 900,000 gallons per day effective 10/24/05.***

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